

Abstract of the Disclosure

A crustacean shelling tool is employed to quickly and easily crack the underside of the tail shell of a crawfish, for example, to expose the meat contained therein for removal without damage and without loss of the associated succulent juices. The key-like tool includes a handle and an elongate rod extending therefrom. A longitudinal slit extends inwardly from a distal end of the rod to define upper and lower rod forks. An optional finger ring is attached to the handle of the tool by means of a short tether to prevent dropping or misplacement of the tool during the time required to remove and/or eat the meat from one shelled crawfish and to ready the next crawfish for shelling. In use, the lower rod fork of the tool is inserted into the open end of the tail shell such that the underside of the shell is guided into the longitudinal slit a desired distance. Next, the tool is rotated about its longitudinal axis approximately 1/4 turn in either direction to thereby crack the underside of the shell and expose the meat contained therein. The tool is then lifted away from the shell and allowed to hang from the finger ring, freeing the user's hands to manually widen the crack in the shell and remove the meat, intact, therefrom.